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REGULATION OF ATHLETICS IN MISSOURI AND ADJACENT TERRITORY.

THE problem of athletic control in Missouri is the same for each college in the South or Southwest. In fact, it is the same for any college where social influences in the environment, the sentiments, general training, energy, stability, and financial status of the student body make it difficult to maintain highly developed teams, and where, further, the example and methods of great influential neighboring colleges give standards for achievement which cannot normally be maintained. Given these conditions dominating the development of athletics in any college, their regulation is always difficult.

My paper might well be called, "What I have learned concerning the regulation of athletics from my experience in Missouri," for inasmuch as Missouri has been the center of the most recent struggle for high standards in athletics, intimately associated with all the colleges of the Southwest in that struggle, and overshadowed by the influences of the larger colleges to the north, it has been a vantage-point from which to study present-day tendencies in college athletics. Having gone to Missouri with some knowledge of athletic conditions on the Pacific coast and in New England, I have come to feel that there are factors which are everywhere constant in their corrupting influence on athletics, and that these factors should receive our earnest attention in all efforts toward athletic regulation. I believe that they give the key to the present situation in athletics. They suggest new lines of attack for the regulation and control of athletics. Therefore it is of these factors that I first wish to speak.

I. First among the factors that are constant in their tendencies toward corruption is scholastic provincialism. This term does not refer to the local pride that makes for college spirit, but to the crude, unintelligent prejudices against rival colleges. It leads to bad feeling, distrust, hate, and combativeness in place of good-fellowship, courtesy, and a manly rivalry. Provincialism

is found not alone in those colleges where students are drawn largely from western rural districts, but in the old tradition-bound colleges of the East as well. In fact, it is not uncommon among members of our college faculties. It is a universal product of a narrow social experience, undisciplined emotions, and a cramped intellect. The rabid partisan fails to note that, had he matriculated in a rural college, the "black sheep" of his fancy would all have been "white," and the lambs he thinks so white would all have been black. This provincialism is a drag on every phase of college life, but it is chiefly dangerous to athletics because it lends itself to bad influences, unsportsmanlike suggestions, and the sway of mob mind.

II. Second among the factors that are constant in their tendencies toward corruption is an unhealthy craving to win. A craving to win is not only a natural and legitimate feeling, but it underlies many of the most pleasurable and stimulating emotions aroused by athletics. It becomes unwholesome or dangerous when exaggerated to unreasonable proportions, either through a contagion of local pride or through the unhealthy interest and influence of the sporty and betting element, which, swayed by the crudest of passions, feels nothing, knows nothing, and cares nothing for educational aims or sportsmanlike standards. This is the element that forced faculty control. Athletics are to them a gambling device. Their ideals are focused in one aim—*win*. Their interests and influence are a constant menace to honorable athletic standards. So long as college authorities allow characters that are a disgrace to the institution the privileges of the college, so long will there be an unscrupulous element debauching one of the fundamental instincts which create and develop athletic contests. A healthy, over-ardent craving to win is subject to educational influences; the unhealthy will yield only to harsh discipline.

III. Another factor that tends toward corruption is the competitive spirit. Normal competition is eagerly sought and enjoyed by athletes, but the craving tends to overleap itself and produce an exaggerated athleticism. It produces an accumulation of big intercollegiate games. There follows a profound

concentration of effort, enormous labor, and great absorption of time. Everything becomes exaggerated. Surfeited athletes are worked up to a realization of their responsibilities; the honor of the college, its standing before the world, the number of students, all depend upon their efforts! Under the strain powerful men only can survive. A premium is placed on such men. It leads to an exaggerated hero-worship of the powerful expert athlete, and a contempt for the undeveloped boy with latent athletic powers. The athlete himself gains an exaggerated notion of his value and importance. He comes to expect favors, and thinks he is abused if he does not get them. No one honors the athlete more than I, but he should be honored within his own domain and with some sense of proportion. Athletic skill is no guarantee of intellectual culture or power, and it is very doubtful whether there is any relation between the physical courage exhibited on the football field and the moral courage necessary to fight for a moral principle.

IV. The transient professional coach is another constant influence toward corruption. He is the most corrupting influence in college athletics today. The very nature of his position induces mental states that lead to corrupt practices; he is created by a desire for a winning team. His reputation depends on the production of a winning team. Success is rewarded by a spectacular reputation and a ridiculously large salary. The temptation is too much for mortal flesh. As very few coaches have any interest, power, or patience in developing the raw material in the student body, they become active agents in producing and fostering a recruiting spirit. It is astonishing with what unanimity present-day coaches demand fully developed athletic material. They are interested in their own reputations, not in the college. Their influence is uneducational, if not anti-educational. The greater their reputations, the more dangerous they become.

V. Last, but not least in importance, among the factors that lead to corruption is an apathetic, disinterested, careless, or dishonest faculty. Given this attitude on the part of the faculty, and influences of all the other factors are without check. In fact, the whole problem of athletic control comes back to the moral

responsibility of the faculty. Any college where the faculty believes that its work begins and ends in the class-room will be disgraced by corrupt practices. This may be laid down as a general principle; either the administrative heads of the college, the faculty, or some individual member of the faculty gifted with a generous amount of moral courage and self-sacrifice, backed by either the sympathy of the administration or the faculty, must take up the thankless burden of athletic regulation and control. There probably never has been a case where the whole faculty of a college has been tolerant of dishonest practices in athletics, but cases are not uncommon where the attitude of the faculty makes anything or everything possible. Unfortunately some members of our college faculties are men of neither high moral judgment nor high moral courage. On the one hand we have, though to be sure but seldom, the fanatical fool whose prejudice reigns above his sense of justice in his attitude toward the athlete; on the other hand we have, all too often, the attitude that lowers college standards for the athlete in obedience to the popular demand for a winning team. This is bad enough for the ordinary college professor, but when the administrative heads of a college, for the sake of the advertising value of a winning team, wink at the presence of an athlete whose intelligence and scholarship are a disgrace to the scholarly standards of the institution, it is not only dishonorable, but low-bred.

These five influences which I have described as factors constant in their tendencies to corruption culminate, unless counteracted by other influences, in those practices which we so much deplore. Among these the two most prominent before the college world at the present time are: first, unsportsmanlike feelings and conduct toward opponents; second, corrupt feelings and practices concerning the use of illegitimate players. Both of these headings are deserving of lengthy discussion, but time allows me but a few words concerning what I consider the most vicious and far-reaching of all the corrupting practices in college athletics, *i. e.*, the recruiting system. The practice of recruiting athletics has been of long duration, but the present subtle and insidious systematic organization of methods for securing athletes,

apparently beyond the reach of faculty authorities, makes this evil the dominant menacing evil of college athletics. It is the most vicious and far-reaching of all the corrupting practices in athletics.

Recently I have attempted to collect information concerning the extent and moral influences of this system. The investigation, though scarcely begun, reveals conditions that are appalling. The material indicates clearly that there are many well-defined cases where athletes have been induced to enter colleges and take part in athletics through influences of the following character.

1. Cases where pleas concerning the standing of the college, the advantages of its environment, the prominence of its athletics, were made.
2. Cases where athletes were banqueted and flattered by attentions in order to induce them to enter a particular college.
3. Cases where railroad fare or a ticket to the college town was offered.
4. Cases where a position that would pay expenses was promised or given.
5. Cases where a salary for work that existed in name only was promised or given.
6. Cases where expenses in colleges were promised or given.
7. Cases where donations or a fixed sum of money or a salary were offered or given.

While it is very hard for college authorities to get evidence that will convict, almost everyone connected intimately with athletics knows of cases that illustrate the methods just enumerated. In this connection the following letters will be of interest. Names and addresses are purposely omitted.

DEAR SIR :

Your name has been handed to me as a possible candidate for our football team for next year. I write to add that if such has been your intentions, please carry them into effect and I am sure you will never regret it. We have had a fine team here for two seasons past, and we are sure of having one next year. There are vacancies at guard, end, halfback, and quarterback, and no old man has his position "cinched" by any means. I know your ability from your record and will state that you stand a reasonably cer-

tain show of making our team. If you come we will give you a fair and impartial show and may the best man win.

Our schedule, so far as made, includes games with [writer enumerated three great colleges], and there is a possibility of our meeting a representative eastern team, probably Yale, but as yet there is no date arranged.

Will you kindly consider the matter and let me know as to what your intentions are, and if there is anything you wish to know, or I can be of any service to you otherwise please feel free to call on,

Yours respectfully,
[Signed by the captain of a great middle western college team.]

Note the last paragraph carefully. This letter was sent to a big, powerful man who graduates this year and still has one year during which he could play on a college team.

MY DEAR ——— :

* * * * *

If you can bring Mr. ——— here with you even for a visit I will send him transportation. In case a letter would not reach me in time, telegraph at my expense, if he can come. I wish very much that you would persuade him to come here to school.

Hoping to hear from you as soon after you receive this as possible, I am,

Yours truly,
[Signed by one of the great middle western college coaches].

Manager of Football Team, State University, Columbia, Mo.;

DEAR SIR: I am informed that you have not selected your football coach for next year. . . . I have several players in view who will go to school wherever I coach next fall. These men are good students and as good players as you will find anywhere west of the Mississippi, two are old college players and several are high school players, of these I am sure two would go to your University if I should want them to.

Yours truly,
[Signed by a prominent middle western coach.]

This man was asked what he could do, and the following was received in reply:

DEAR SIR :

Your letter of the 11th inst. stating that you had not selected your coach for next fall received a few days ago. . . . I will be willing to coach your team next year for \$— for the season. You see by this that it is not the money that I am after. Besides I should spend a good deal of my own salary for

the benefit of the team. Of course I should use this as I saw fit. . . . I know of several men who I am quite sure I could induce to enter your institution if I coached next fall. . . .

Yours truly,

[Signed by same as last above.]

Manager Football Team, Columbia, Mo.:

DEAR SIR: What inducement can you offer a football player for the coming year? Have been under an efficient coach for two years and played R. H. on one of the leading western college teams. I am,
Weight 175.

Yours respectfully,

DEAR SIR:

I will now take the pleasure of dropping you a few lines to ask you a few question which I hope you will oblige me by answer them. Under what agreement can I enter the Missouri State University I would like to get in that football team I have been playing football four years and have been coached and practiced with a good many college players, I will gaurntee you that I will make good the first year. I have two offers from eastern colleges, but I would sooner go west fore that is where I intend to make my home in the future. Well as I have no more to say I guess I will close hoping to hear from you soon Our by return mail, I remain . . .

Age 19 years, weight 185, height 5 ft 7 in.

These letters are but samples; they speak for themselves.

Doubtless there are numerous wild rumors and exaggerated tales concerning the practices of particular colleges and the golden opportunities offered the expert athlete; but if we had no proofs, the volumes of smoke indicate that there is some fire. The pitiable mental condition of those athletes who live on the outskirts of great athletic centers is proof in itself of the presence and debauching influence of the recruiting system.

Many are the complaints that college athletics have become a business in which winning out at any cost is the chief end—in which the spirit of commercialism is dominant. Disapproval is swamped in a growing conviction that recruiting is essential in order to make a respectable showing.

Among enthusiasts the all-absorbing topic of conversation is the nature of the material and the chances to win. The negotiations of the management for a coach are rife with such queries as: "What sort of material have you?" "What have you done

to get good material?" The temper of the athletically inclined is elated or depressed according to the inventory of crack athletes on hand.

My data show clearly that the recruiting system has produced a widespread conviction among students that athletic power is a very desirable acquisition, that it at least insures a good time, easy work, prominence, and, where necessary, enables the athlete to get an education without cost to himself. There is scarcely an athlete of any prominence in the Southwest who does not believe that his athletic ability would net him handsome returns in any of the great northern or eastern colleges. Just imagine, if you do not actually know, the moral results of such a notion!

It would seem that students, alumni, managers, captains, and coaches, intoxicated by an exaggerated enthusiasm and a passion to win, have gone mad in a gluttonous search for material.

Apart from its corrupting influence, the recruiting system as a policy is absolutely anti-educational. It is destructive of real internal athletic development. It discourages all effort toward the development of the latent athletic ability of undergraduates. It forces further recruiting. Survey the members of almost any college team that jumps to sudden prominence: what proportion of its members are developed from the ranks of the student body? What proportion are ready-made athletes from other sources?

President Jordan recently said: "I fear football has outgrown its usefulness." This seems to be the growing sentiment among the leading college men that have supported athletics. They have supported football, in common with other phases of athletics, because of their value to young men. Recently they have uttered nothing but complaints. Lose their support and the days of football prosperity are numbered.

Face to face with this demoralizing and ruinous influence we may well ask: What is to be done? Are we to resort to further rule-making? Personally, I believe that technical legislation on rules of eligibility has about reached its limit of usefulness. There are one or two rules that might be helpful, but it is a serious commentary on the motives at work in athletics that we

have had forced upon us already so many rules. What is needed is a change of heart in the application of these rules. We need to apply our rules from the standpoint of the rival college. The world should know that the honor of the institution is to be placed above the right of any individual to take part in intercollegiate contests. How different is this standpoint from the one usually adopted, yet it would do away with the frequent disgraceful intercollegiate squabbles over the eligibility of players. Further, it would diminish those rumors that are now a corrupting influence in themselves.

The application of rules of eligibility, however, no matter how conscientiously and generously interpreted, will not suffice to eradicate the baneful practices now dominating athletics. We must change our attack and strike at the factors constant in their tendency to produce those practices.

I. Among the factors that are constant in their influences for corruptions, the professional coach stands in a class by himself. His educational position is anomalous. He is the center in which, through which, and around which all the other baneful influences are roused and operated. There is only one thing to do with him, and that is, eliminate him.

II. Associated with the professional coach are those dishonest students, alumni, and sympathizers who, dominated by an unhealthy craving to win, resort to such subtle methods in the recruiting of expert athletes that they are the despair of faculty committees on athletics. Unfortunately all of this element cannot be eliminated. I have often been asked: How can you find out what is done by these people? There is only one way to reach the dishonest element, and that is, let the policy toward recruiting athletes be well understood, and then make any effort at recruiting unsafe, by compelling each candidate for a team to sign a certificate so searching in its character that it will be hard for any irregularity to escape detection.

The following certificate seems to me to be pregnant with possibilities for the discouragement of recruiting agents and methods:

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE.

[*Face of certificate.*]

NOTE.—“Any candidate for an athletic team who, in signing his eligibility certificate, or when asked questions by the Director, makes misrepresentations or omissions concerning his athletic career shall be dismissed from the University.”—By order of the Executive Board of Curators.

Get a copy of the rules of eligibility and read them carefully before signing this certificate.

Name in full _____

Candidate for what degree _____ Class _____

Date when first entered college _____

Date of entrance this year _____

Are you regularly attending and do you propose to attend the course for which you are registered? _____

Number of credit hours' work _____ Have you any delinquencies in scholarship? _____

Have you been a member of a team in any other college? _____

If so (a) Were you in good standing in your studies? _____ (b) Did you drop out before the end of the college half-year after taking part in athletics? _____

How many years have you played in the aggregate on a college team? _____

Are you an amateur according to the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union? _____

Have you ever been a member of a team other than a team connected with an educational institution? _____

Have you ever received compensation directly or indirectly for participation in any athletic contest? _____

Have you ever directly or indirectly offered your athletic abilities to be used by any athletic team for compensation? _____

Have you received any intimations that you would be tendered compensa-

tion for your present connection with athletics which you have not reported to the Director of Athletics?_____

Have you received any offer of compensation from a student or athletic official of any educational institution for your athletic abilities which

you have not reported to the Director of Athletics?_____

Do you hereby promise to report any such offer when received?_____

Do you receive any compensation from the University for instruction of any kind? _____

What is your source of support?_____

[*Back of certificate.*]

OUTLINE OF INSTITUTIONAL AND ATHLETIC CAREER.

In the first column below give a complete list of preparatory schools and colleges attended, in chronological order. In the second column place after each school the teams for which you were a candidate, with years, and the teams upon which you played, with years.

Also give teams played on other than school teams. Make a note of any athletic institutions or coaching done, whether paid for it or not.

Schools Attended, with Years.	Teams Played on, with Years.

I certify by this, my signature, that the above statements are correct, that I am an amateur, and in every way eligible according to the spirit and letter of the rules adopted by Missouri University.

(Signed) _____

To the best of my belief and knowledge I certify that the above is correct.

Captain of _____ Team.

Manager of _____ Team.

Coach of _____ Team.

Back this certificate by a well-enforced rule such as that stated at the head of the certificate, and the discipline of the institution must be lax indeed, and the character of the students very low, if it does not place the situation well within the hands of a vigorous committeeman. No college has a right to use an athlete without investigating his career. The co-operation of other colleges should be asked. An investigation and vigorous cross-questioning should handle the most stubborn case. If there are suspicious circumstances surrounding an athlete's career, he should be disqualified.

III. Many of the corrupting influences in athletics are subject to and will yield to the educational influences and discipline of the faculty. This is true of those influences that are due to crudeness, ignorance, prejudice, undisciplined enthusiasm, or chagrin—in fact, all those factors which I have classed under the head of provincialism, exaggerated athleticism, as well as the representative normal student craving to win. The rougher, cruder element needs the influence of discipline, but the majority of college students will follow an appeal for high standards, generous sportsmanship, and manly conduct.

At a recent meeting of athletic representatives from the leading colleges in Missouri, called to discuss the athletic situation, seven resolutions were adopted, the first three of which were as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That it is the conviction of this conference that all college athletics should be under the control and supervision of the college faculty. That the faculty authorities responsible for the standards maintained in athletics should instruct the general student body, as well as candidates for teams, in the principles of good sportsmanship and manly conduct in their athletic activity, and that penalties be imposed upon players who in any way resort to unfair tactics in a contest or make themselves obnoxious while connected with the team.

2. *Resolved*, That in every college community a public opinion should be fostered which shall be absolutely fair and courteous to visiting teams, which shall be prompt to recognize and applaud good plays and acts of chivalry on either side, and which never drops below the plane of considerate and gentlemanly conduct.

3. *Resolved*, That the authorities of each college discountenance betting in connection with athletic events and endeavor to build up a public sentiment against this baneful evil.

I believe these resolutions contain hopeful suggestions for a future line of action in the control of athletics. That their spirit as well as the suggestions concerning methods are capable of practical application we have fully demonstrated by results accomplished in Missouri University.

If the intent of these resolutions is wise, they indicate a need in college life of some organized educational work in student affairs. Walter Camp in a private conversation suggested this need several years ago. Why not give official recognition to the literary, debating, dramatic, musical, and athletic activities of students as a part of their college career? Place them under the direction of a secretary, or director, or dean of student activities, who shall be charged with the control of student affairs and organize educational work along the lines suggested by the resolutions just read.

These suggestions for the control, suppression, or elimination of corrupting characters in the college community and the education of the student body in standards of sportsmanship will rid athletics of all these corrupting factors described above, just in proportion to the efficiency of the faculty in its work.

Can we not go farther and establish principles that will tend to secure the educational value of college athletics as well as dictate methods for the legitimate development of athletics as a sport? If competitive athletics are to remain a permanent phase of college student life, they must be organized and conducted in harmony with the broader educational aims of the college. The craving to participate in athletics, the craving to win, and the pleasures in highly developed expert athletic performances are normal and healthful, and should have legitimate expression.

Can a criterion be established making the distinction between corrupt practices and legitimate practices in developing a winning team as clear-cut as the distinction between professional and amateur? If college athletics have a value for college men, if they have a place among or associated with the college duties of the students, that value is for the undergraduate. Therefore I ask: Will not this serve as the criterion sought? Any influ-

ence that bars or tends to discourage the average undergraduate from participation in athletic sports is a corrupting, ruinous, and professionalizing policy because its logical end is hired men.

This principle logically applied would itself revolutionize present-day athletic methods. In the first place, it would dictate a suppression of the recruiting system. In the second place, it would dictate very stringent rules against the graduate player or eliminate him. In the third place, it would dictate as a substitute for the professional coach a permanent instructing head or body that could systematically organize the development of latent athletic talent. Lastly, it would tend to place athletics under their normal and most healthful auspices as a phase of the department work in physical training. The department organization of athletics secures their educational value to a large number of students working at a normal intensity, as against a few working at an abnormal intensity. From experiences in Missouri we feel that this is the ultimate method of solution for all the problems in competitive athletics.

As a last word I wish to say that the responsibility for the moral condition in athletics rests on the leading college or colleges in any community. The responsibility for athletic morality in Missouri rests largely with the State University; the responsibility for athletics in the middle West rests largely with Michigan, Chicago, and Wisconsin. Unless these three institutions handle their athletics by methods that are above reproach, every irregularity or rumor of irregularity will be duplicated in a series of reverberations from lesser colleges. Moral responsibility never fails to come home to its own.

C. W. HETHERINGTON.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI.